GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:431
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
PESTICIDES IN HUMAN BLOOD
Satheedevi Smt. P.;Seth Shri Lakshman Chandra

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of Center for Science and Environment about high levels of pesticides content in human blood in rural Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi has published the levels on residues of various pesticides in human blood in rural Punjab. According to their report out of 20 Blood samples collected randomly from 4 villages of Punjab are reported to contain organo-chlorine pesticides, organo-phosphate pesticides etc. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has stated that the CSE report itself states that the observed trend for DDT and HCH are comparatively lower than the earlier reports from India and nowhere in the report it is mentioned that the Punjab farmers are at higher risk.

According to information received from the Government of Punjab, they have instituted a study by the Chemical Examiner, Patiala who has tested 235 samples of Human Blood drawn at random from rural areas of Punjab for presence of pesticides like Organo Phosphorus Compounds, Chloro Compound, Aluminium Phosphide, Zinc Phosphide and Carbonate Group. But it was found that none of the samples contained the above mentioned pesticides.